

OCT 04 2008

Docket No.: JNT/01

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Application No. 10/747,793
Amendment dated: October 4, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): An improved paper fastening arrangement for use with a fastener having a base including two ends each having a leg extended therefrom, the leg foldable relative to the base, a sheath comprising:

an extension shaped to slideably engage one of the legs, the extension including an opening that defines a cavity to receive the leg, wherein the extension at least partially covers the leg;

at least one foldable guide tab depending from the extension, ~~the guide tab being foldable~~
the guide tab having a flange bent relative to the guide tab to form a recess between the flange and the guide tab, whereby the recess receives the leg; and

wherein the extension and the guide tab are sized to fit through hole-punched sheet materials.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 2 1, wherein the flange secures the sheath and the leg.

4. (previously presented): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 wherein the sheath includes a solid portion closing the opening either at a top of the sheath or at a distance below the top of the sheath.

5. (original): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 further comprising a retainer to slideably engage with the sheath, for securing the sheath and the leg.

6. (original): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 further comprising a retaining means for securing the sheath and the leg.

7. (currently amended): A paper fastener comprising:

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a base including two ends each having a leg extended therefrom, the leg foldable relative to the base;

a sheath for slidably engaging one of the legs, the sheath comprising an open bottom forming a cavity to receive the leg, wherein the sheath at least partially covers the leg and is operative to engage through sheet materials; and

the sheath comprising at least one guide tab extending from the open bottom and foldable therefrom, wherein the guide tab comprises a flange bent relative to the guide tab to form a recess between the flange and the guide tab, whereby the recess is configured to receive the leg;
and

wherein the guide tab is sized to fit through hole-punched sheet materials.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended): The paper fastener as in claim 8 7 wherein the flange secures the sheath and the leg.

10. (previously presented): The paper fastener as in claim 7 wherein the sheath includes a solid portion closing the cavity, the solid portion located either at an end of the sheath or proximate the end of the sheath.

11. (original): The paper fastener as in claim 7 further comprising a retainer to slidably engage with the sheath, for securing the sheath and the leg.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (previously presented): The paper fastener as in claim 11 wherein said retainer engages the guide tab when the guide tab is parallel with the leg, and the retainer secures the guide tab and the leg.

14. (currently amended): The paper fastener as in claim 7 wherein the sheath includes at least a second foldable guide tab extending from the open bottom ~~and foldable therefrom.~~

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15. (currently amended) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 2 1 wherein the flange is folded toward the guide tab to form a rounded side edge thereof.

16. (currently amended) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 2 1 wherein the flange extends across the guide tab to an opposite edge of the guide tab from which it depends.

17. (previously presented) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 further comprising a compressor having opposing top and bottom surfaces and two holes respectively formed through two end portions of the compressor, said compressor operable to engage the sheath by receiving at least a portion of the extension in one of the two holes.

18. (currently amended) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 further comprising at least a second foldable guide tab depending from the opening of the extension, ~~the second guide tab being foldable.~~

19. (previously presented) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 wherein the cavity is configured to receive the entire length of the leg.

20. (previously presented) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 wherein the sheath, the extension and the guide tab are integrally formed.

21. (previously presented) A paper fastening attachment for use with a fastener having a base including two ends each having a prong extending therefrom, the prong bendable relative to the base, comprising:

a prong cover shaped to slideably engage and at least partially cover the prong, the prong cover comprising an orifice to receive the prong and at least one tab hingedly depending from the orifice and terminating in a free end, wherein the prong cover and the tab are sized to fit through hole-punched sheet materials

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